

Office of Teaching & Learning Support *presents...*

Common Core Implementation Team (CCIT)

## The Blast!

**Dear Colleagues,**

As December days grow shorter, our professional and personal “to do” lists seem to grow longer! While working to stay focused on teaching and learning, adults and students alike are anticipating the winter break, as well as the busy holiday season ahead.

Here in the Division, my team and I have been wrapping up final details on two new professional learning supports for NJ educators. In the November 24<sup>th</sup> Broadcast, I invited districts to join a pilot project to be the first to access and experience NJDOE’s innovative **Blended Online Learning Modules**. This series of courses is designed to strengthen individual practice, as well as PLC focus, for enhanced student achievement. More details about the pilot project and application forms can be found in the “Professional Learning” section of this Blast. Districts need to apply by Tuesday, December 15, 2015, and we expect many to do so as there is growing interest in this unique product, a collaborative endeavor between NJDOE, NJIT, and NJPSA/FEA.

This week, we also announced that the **NJ Collaborative Online Resource Exchange (NJCORE)** website is up and running! Designed to be a clearinghouse of quality instructional resources, the revamped user-friendly site now gives educators, administrators and community members even greater access to a wealth of materials for teaching and learning across all NJ academic standards.

We wish you and your students all the best this busy time of year. I also offer continued thanks for all you have done and will continue to do in the year ahead to help students learn and grow!

**Kimberley Harrington,**  
**Chief Academic Officer**  
**Division of Teaching and Learning**



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### **Division HIGHLIGHT:** **Office of Secondary Education ([top](#))**

This month, *The Blast* highlights the **Office of Secondary Education** directed by **Candace Kenyatta**. Members of the Office of Secondary Education (OSE) have been working in various ways to support educators, schools, districts, and institutions of higher learning throughout New Jersey. The mission and vision of the OSE fosters opportunities to:

- ❖ Collaborate with schools and districts to implement best practices in classroom instruction and assessment;
- ❖ Design and offer professional learning opportunities for teachers and administrators, including monthly webinars, workshops, roundtable discussions, and seminars;
- ❖ Build relationships and foster partnerships with local and national organizations and government agencies to support student learning and growth;
- ❖ Provide guidance as school districts design innovative programs that address student needs and unique interests;
- ❖ Consult with teacher preparation programs that work in providing pre-service teachers with opportunities to grow in their understanding of teaching and learning;
- ❖ Facilitate discussions as part of the standards revision process in English language arts and mathematics;
- ❖ Create, identify, and share model curricula documents including resources and assessments across content areas; and
- ❖ Identify school and district-wide model programs that implement effective core instructional practices, focusing on curriculum coherence and articulation in specific content areas.

Please feel free to contact the OSE for more information about how we can provide support to you and your districts; or to ask specific questions. The NJ Core Curriculum Content Standards (NJCCCS) and content coordinators are listed at our website: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/cccs/>.



### **NJ Standards Review Update** **([top](#))**

The Standards Review Committee and related subcommittees are completing their work and will present a final report to the NJ State Board of Education at the January State Board Meeting. Check the website regularly for updates.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/standards/>



### **New Jersey** **Collaborative Online Resource Exchange** **([top](#))**

The newly updated NJCORE is open for business! Visit the site to explore classroom, professional learning, community resources and more. Look for new resources and ideas in the "Featured Content" toolkit which changes monthly.

[www.njcore.org](http://www.njcore.org)





Academic Standards

**Resources for NJ Academic Standards****ELA and Mathematics (top):****NJCTE 2016 Writing Contest for HS Students**

At the website for the NJ Council of Teachers of English (NJCTE), find news and ELA resources, including the 2016 High School Writing Contest. The deadline for contest submissions is **December 17, 2015**. Find more information on the contest and other activities at their website.

<http://www.njcte.com/hs-writing-contest/>

**LiteracyHow.org Offers Free ELA Resources**

While some of the LiteracyHow.org services are fee-based, many of their online resources are free, including tips on teaching literacy at all grade levels. Find out how to register for free to receive the monthly e-newsletters.

<https://t.e2ma.net/webview/hwvqn/793af42801551744dcf546ae74330881>

**Random House Free Resources for Teachers**

Random House offers free educator guides with activities aligned to ELA standards, as well as newsletters. Visit their website for information on books and other resources for teachers and librarians.

<http://www.randomhouse.com/teachers/resourcecats/common-core-resources/>

**AMTNJ Online Math Resources**

The Association of Mathematics Teachers of NJ (AMTNJ) website offers a variety of resources for math and other educators. Find lessons and other instructional materials, as well as professional learning opportunities on the site. AMTNJ newsletters, published winter, spring and fall, are available online, along with the AMTNJ Journal. Editors for the Journal, *The NJ Mathematics Teacher*, seek manuscripts throughout the year for publication.

<http://amtnj.org/>

**NCTM Illuminations Website**

The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCTM) created this website to provide free instructional resources for teachers reflecting NCTM principles and aligned to CCSS mathematics standards.

<https://illuminations.nctm.org/>

**Science, Technology, Engineering & Math (STEM) (top)****SSEP Flight Opportunity for School Districts**

The U.S. National Model STEM Education Program has announced an **extension** in the application date for the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program (SSEP) to **December 11, 2015**. This will be the Twelfth Flight Opportunity – SSEP Mission 10 to the International Space Station starting February 22, 2016. Visit the website for a program summary and more information on application guidelines.

<http://ssep.ncesse.org/>

**NASA Website for Educators:**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) website offers opportunities for educators and students to learn about and engage in a host of events, competitions, and space missions. Visit the website to see what's available and appropriate for a particular grade span. Watch for live streaming options in several free webinars and lecture series in December and into 2016.

<http://www.nasa.gov/offices/education/about/index.html>

**NOAA/NASA Earth Science Website:**

This website is a joint endeavor by NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) providing educational resources on weather and other earth science topics. The "SciJinks" newsletter and website materials are appropriate for students in middle and high school grades.

<http://scijinks.jpl.nasa.gov/about/>

**NGSS News, Videos, and November Newsletter**

Look under "Latest News" on the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) website for the November 2015 NOW newsletter and other resources.

<http://www.nextgenscience.org/>

**Career & Technical Education (top)****NJ Students Join the Global Hour of Code**

As part of Computer Science Education Week, more than 1,500 schools in NJ will join millions of students worldwide by participating in the Hour of Code. The global event will be observed during the week of **December 7<sup>th</sup> through 13<sup>th</sup>** and provide students and teachers with a unique introduction to computer science.

<https://hourofcode.com/us>

**Bilingual/ESL Education (top)****NJDOE Bureau of Bilingual/ESL Education**

Check the website below to see the timeline for ACCESS 2.0 Administration Dates (2015-2016). The timeline was updated on October 20, 2015.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/bilingual/ells/timelines.htm>

**NCELA's November 2015 Nexus Newsletter**

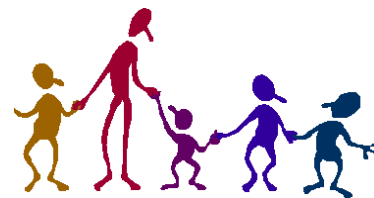
The National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition (NCELA) provides resources, including a free semi-monthly newsletter with information on webinars, conferences and links to reports related to language acquisition.

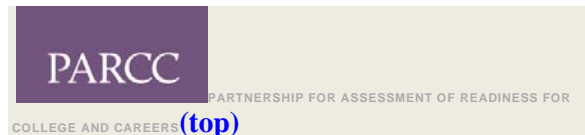
<http://ncela.ed.gov/november-18-2015>

**Spotlight on Special Education (top)****New USDE Guidance on IEPs**

Ahead of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the USDE has issued new guidance on IEPs. The publication below indicates IEPs should conform to the academic content standards for a student's state as well as the grade level at which he/she is enrolled.

<http://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcrltrs/guidance-on-fape-11-17-2015.pdf>





### NJDOE Broadcast on PARCC Scores Release

This November 16<sup>th</sup> broadcast memo by Jeffrey Hauger, Acting Chief Performance Officer, Director of Assessment, discusses release dates for PARCC Individual Student Reports. Learn of the timeline for releasing scores and where to find more information on interpreting data for teachers and parents.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/NOV/17/14324/PARCC%20Individual%20Student%20Report%20Update.pdf>

### NJDOE Broadcast Clarifies PARCC Policies

In this November 17<sup>th</sup> memo, Jeffrey Hauger addresses questions about revised policies regarding administration on PARCC ELA and mathematics assessments.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/NOV/17/14326/PARCC%202015%202016%20Clarification%20Document.pdf>

### NJDOE Broadcast on PARCC Updates

This November 17<sup>th</sup> broadcast memo outlines the timeline and components for the release of 2014-15 median Student Growth Percentile (mSGP) scores, based in part on the PARCC exams, as well as the 2014-15 evaluation score certification process. Go to the embedded links for more information.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/NOV/17/14323/Upcoming%20mSGP%20Release%20memo.pdf>

### NJDOE Assessments – PARCC Website

Stay abreast of the most current news regarding PARCC scores and resources for administrators, educators and parents at this Department website.

<http://www.state.nj.us/education/assessment/>

### PARCC's Partnership Resource Center

At the PARCC "Partnership Resource Center" site below, find scoring rubrics, as well as scored and annotated samples of students' work. The site also offers PARCC's new Test Builder tool to use the released items to build local assessments. To access NJ data, click the person icon on the top right of website to create a new account. On the new account page, enter the requested NJ code: NJ1787

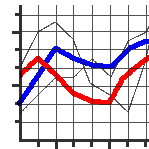
<https://prc.parcconline.org/>

<https://prc.parcconline.org/assessments/parcc-released-items>

### UnderstandTheScore.org by PARCC

PARCC has created a new website, UnderstandtheScore.org, to walk parents through the score report and provide clear information on their child's progress toward meeting grade level expectations and mastering important skills like critical thinking.

<http://understandthescore.org/>



### FREE Professional Learning (top)

### Join a Pilot for Blended Online Learning Modules

In a November 24<sup>th</sup> NJDOE Broadcast memo, Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, invites districts to be part of a pilot project using the new **Blended Online Learning Modules** designed for individual and PLC professional practice. A joint endeavor by NJDOE, NJIT and NJPSA/FEA, the modules are interactive, embedded with videos, and include staff training. Visit the Broadcast link below to find the memo, overview of project, and pilot application forms due **December 15, 2015**.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/>

**NJDOE Calendar of Events**

The Department invites you to review the website below and register for free workshops.

<http://education.state.nj.us/events/>

**Office of Career Readiness Fall Workshops**

On December 9 and 16, OCR is offering the final two regional workshops on “Career-Ready Practices.” The topics will include an overview of the practices, discussion of classroom-ready resources, activities and tools to support implementation, as well as structured learning experiences and the NJ Career Assistance Navigator (NJCAN). See the memo below for links to online registration.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/SEP/29/14108/Caree%20Ready%20Practices.pdf>

**NJDOE Bilingual/ESL 2015-16 Workshops**

The Office of Supplemental Educational Programs, Bureau of ESL/Bilingual Education, is offering professional development in the months ahead for district staff working with ELL students.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/AUG/25/13986/Bilingual.ESL%202015-16%20Professional%20Development.pdf>

**FREE Webinars and MOOCs****Stanford Releases MOOCs on Language**

Access to three MOOCs on “Understanding Language” is offered free this month by Stanford University. The focus is on different aspects of language demands. Due to grant funding, the series is free and available at the website below.

<http://ell.stanford.edu/content/moocs>

**ASCD Webinars for December**

Check for upcoming free webinars on the ASCD website below.

<http://www.ascd.org/professional-development/webinars.aspx>

**[Further Reading \(top\)](#)****New Jersey ARTS ED NOW Campaign**

At the September 2015 NJ Arts Education Summit, the NJ Arts Education Partnership (NJAEP) launched the **ARTS ED NOW** campaign to promote art education in schools. At this website, find a link to their latest newsletter, *The Beat*, and updates on the campaign’s new website and related activities.

<http://artsednj.org>

**Getting Creative with Differentiation**

In this article, the author talks about the value of allowing for student choice in differentiating instruction. He provides links to “genius hours” and “20% time,” strategies his students find engaging.

<http://inservice.ascd.org/flex-your-creative-muscle-to-differentiate/>

**School Library Journal Article on Vlogging**

The author of this SLJ article suggests both educators and librarians learn about vlogging, which she describes as the combination of video and blogging. She claims that this social media tool is the latest venue for students to keep up with popular culture, news, and trends.

<http://www.slj.com/2015/11/students/vlogging-teens-and-literacy-engaging-youth/>

**Alan November Offers Tips for Google Searching**

At a NJDOE June 2015 conference, Alan November covered several topics including guiding students to better research on Google. In this recent eSchool News article, he offers information on advanced Google searches.

<http://www.eschoolnews.com/2015/11/23/how-search-google-592/>

**Math anxiety and Student Performance**

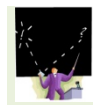
This article points to a new university study that suggests “a moderate amount of anxiety might help some students reach their potential.” Find a link to the study in the Psychological Science journal and learn more about the research.

<http://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/between-the-ears-brains-are-complex-and-so-is-teaching-and-learning/>

**NJDOE’s NJ Educator Connection**

The *NJ Educator Connection* is the NJDOE newsletter for teachers. Subscribe at the website below and find current and archived issues.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/newsletter/>



**YOU are the Resource! (top)**

**Grants Available for Achievement Coaches**

At this website, read about two new competitive grants for the 2016 NJ Achievement Coaches Program and Training Teams from the Office of Evaluation within the Division of Teacher and Leader Effectiveness. The deadline for both grant applications is **December 9, 2015**. For more information on which districts are eligible, and the application process, go to link below.

<http://www.nj.gov/education/AchieveNJ/achievement-coaches/>

**NJ English Journal Call for Manuscripts**

The New Jersey English Journal, a peer-reviewed publication of the NJCTE, is now seeking submissions for the 2016 issue on “The Teacher Profession: Past, Present and Future,” with specific focus on ELA. Guidelines on manuscripts, including contributions for a new 300-word personal reflection feature, are provided at the website below.

<http://www.njcte.com/n-j-english-journal/>

**EdReports.org Seeks ELA Content Reviewers**

EdReports pays stipends to content experts for reviewing ELA text series posted online to facilitate districts’ purchasing decisions on instructional materials. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.

<http://www.edreports.org/about/opportunities.html>

**Grants & Opportunities for Teachers and Students (top)****Nominate a Student for Study in Germany**

In this broadcast, Kimberley Harrington, Chief Academic Officer, provides information on a US Department of State scholarship opportunity for high school students. The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX) offers merit-based scholarships for an academic year in Germany. The application deadline is **January 7, 2016**.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/OCT/21/14204/Scholarships%20for%20American%20HS%20Students%20to%20Study%20Abroad.pdf>



**Governor's School of NJ 2016 Applications**

The NJ Governor's School provides "an enriched educational opportunity for gifted and talented high school students." The opportunity also prepares students to enter high-demand career fields. Read about eligibility and nomination guidelines at the website below. Applications to nominate students must be e-mailed by **January 8, 2016**.

<http://www.nj.gov/govschool/important-dates.shtml>

**Samsung's Solve for Tomorrow Contest**

In this contest, Samsung invites schools to enter the Solve for Tomorrow challenge to raise interest in STEM through possible award share of up to \$2 million in technology products. The contest ends **May 1, 2016**.

<http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/home.html>

**Scholarship for Seniors headed to Forestry Career**

National Wood Flooring Association Education & Research Foundation Wood Studies Scholarship is a \$1,000 nonrenewable scholarship to "study forestry in an effort to advance and improve forestry practices for generations to come." The deadline for application is **February 1, 2016**.

<http://education.state.nj.us/broadcasts/2015/NOV/17/14330/NWFA%20College%20Scholarship.pdf>

**Before you go....**

How else can we help you? Tell us more at [njcore@doe.state.nj.us](mailto:njcore@doe.state.nj.us)!



Know someone who needs The Blast? Send them to our Blast sign-up page at: <http://education.state.nj.us/ccit/subscribe.php>



Missing a CCIT Blast mailing? Go to: <http://www.state.nj.us/education/sca/team/ccit/>

